

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Captain Isaac Paine School
160 Foster Center Road
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School Committee (FSC) to order on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 7:15 PM.
 - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present, Kathleen Swanson, Chair, Shelley Pezza, Vice Chair, member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent, Caroline Caswell, and FSC Secretary, Helena McCullough.
 - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no comment.
3. **Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Litigation – State Pension Lawsuit.**
4. **Building Use Requests** – the FSC approved the following Building Use Requests on a Pezza / Cervasio motion:
 - a. PTG – Library for meetings on various dates
 - b. Girl Scouts #287, Library (Sept & Oct meetings) and Cafeteria (remainder of the year)
 - c. Recreation Committee, October 30, 2014, Cafeteria, Halloween Dance
 - d. Cantering colts 4-H, First Friday of each month, Cafeteria, meeting
 - e. SMCT, Oct. 11, 2104, Tech rehearsal, knowledge of custodial services
 - f. SMCT, Oct through December for performance & rehearsals, café, teacher lounge & kitchenMotion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
5. **Approval of Minutes** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open and Executive session minutes for Tuesday, August 26, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open and Executive session minutes for September 11, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
6. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant run#3 dated August 25, 2014 for \$75,491.16. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved Warrant run #4, dated September 8, 2014 for \$79,688.73. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved Warrant run #5, dated September 11, 2014 for \$375.00. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

 - a. *Business Manager's Report* – Mr. Michael Petrarca, Business Manager, supplied the FSC with a year to date expenditure report for FY 2014 along with a year to date revenue report. The Expenditure report ended the year with a positive balance of \$134,722.01.

State Transportation and Tuitions came under budget by a total of \$75,669. Medicaid attributed a majority of exceeded revenues by \$12,801.

Mr. Petrarca also supplied the FSC with a cost of operations for the Foster Lunch Program, which is showing a \$6,386.40 deficit.

7. Old Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *2014-2015 Budget* – there was no report.
- b. *Community Engagement – Meet the Town Council Candidates* – Mrs. Swanson reported that the PTG will sponsored this evening.
- c. *Long Term Sub Policy, #TBA – Second Reading* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC tabled this item. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

8. New Business (for discussion/action)

- a. *Fund Balance Policy – Develop* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC authorized Dr. Caswell and Mr. Petrarca to develop a Fund Balance Policy of 3%. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- b. *Foster Lunch Program – Cost* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC approved lowering the cost of lunch per child to \$2.50 for a limited trial until January 1st. A letter will go home to parents with the information as soon as possible. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. *Transportation Policy #3541.2 – Revised – Discussion* – on a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve a 1.5 mile walk to the bus stop per student and then change our policy to reflect the F/G regional policy and deal case by case. Discussion. Motion failed. Vote = 1-1-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – no

Ms. Pezza – abstain

Mr. Cervasio – yes

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to approve uniformity of the transportation policies between Foster and the Region and to have the bus company give a full report as to cost and arrival times. Discussion. Motion failed.

Vote = 1-1-1.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes

Ms. Pezza – abstain

Mr. Cervasio – no

On a motion by Mr. Cervasio and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to approve a uniform 1.5 bus stop walk for Foster and the Region with all other problems of safety on an individual basis. Motion passed. Vote 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – no

Ms. Pezza – yes

Mr. Cervasio – yes

On a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to request an impact budget from Ocean State Transportation to include times for grades 6 – 12 and the cost of the impact. Discussion. Motion passed. Vote = 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mrs. Swanson – yes
Ms. Pezza – yes
Mr. Cervasio – no

9. **District Building Committee – Report** – Dr. Caswell reported the Foster School Department has a locked in rate for heating oil with Reichert & Sons at \$3.149 per gallon through March 31, 2015. John Oburika, building maintenance supervisor has filed an appeal with the fire Safety Code, Board of Appeal and Review for three fire code violations. He also acquired three quotes for crack filling and sealing and recommends Nu-Look seal coating company at a cost of \$2,925.00. There are areas of the building with chipping paint that will be addressed over the coming weeks. The RI Dept. of Health has sent a waiver application for (SOC) Synthetic Organic Chemicals and if approved will save around \$4000 over a course of three years.

10. Communication/Reports

- a. *Correspondence* - Dr. Caswell shared a letter from Swamp meadow Community Theatre requesting a reduction of the 20% cost of gate.
- b. *Principal's Report* – there was no report.
- c. *Superintendent's Report* – Dr. Caswell reported that the NECAP Science Test is embargoed across the state. Might be a glitch and districts are complaining.

11. Future Agenda Items

- a. Long Term Sub Policy
- b. Rural Grant
- c. Transportation Impact Statement
- d. SMCT
- e. Fund Balance Policy

At this point the FSC convened **Executive Session to discuss Litigation – State Pension Lawsuit** on a Swanson / Pezza motion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC reconvened Open Session.

Mrs. Swanson reported that Litigation concerning the State pension lawsuit was discussed. No votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “Seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

12. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Mrs. Swanson and seconded by Ms. Pezza, the FSC voted to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough
Secretary Foster School Committee

